

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 11685

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG THINKING ABOUT REDUCTIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH
CONSIDERS DISCUSSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF CUTS AMONG
THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS PREMATURE. HE ALSO
VOICED CONCERN ABOUT THE WEST SUCCUMBING TO THE SOVIET
SYMBOLIC REDUCTION CONCEPT, DISCUSSING SEVERAL ASPECTS
OF THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS IN THE
FIRST PHASE. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF MET JULY 23 WITH FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER

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ROTH AND FONOFF MBFR DEPT DEPUTY DIRECTOR GESCHER TO

DISCUSS MBFR AND NPT (REPORTED SEPTEL NOTAL). FONOFF
MBFR DEPT DIRECTOR RUTH WAS ILL AND UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. ROTH DISCUSSED HIS JULY 17-18 TRIP TO VIENNA. HE SAID
HE WAS DISTURBED ABOUT THE THRUST OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS
HAVING TO DO WITH THE POSSIBLE DISTRIBUTION OF REDUCTIONS
AMONG THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID THE
GERMAN MBFR DELEGATION HAD MADE AN ANALYSIS OF THE
VARIOUS NATIONAL REDUCTION FIGURES WHICH HAD BEEN
MENTIONED THE ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT AFTER THE OTHER
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAD SATISFIED THEIR NEEDS, THE
BUNDESWEHR WOULD BE LEFT WITH A REDUCTION SLICE OF THREE
PERCENT. ROTH IMPLIED THAT SUCH A DISTRIBUTION WOULD
NOT BE SATISFACTORY FOR THE FRG. MOREOVER, ROTH BELIEVES
A DISCUSSION ABOUT DISTRIBUTING WESTERN CUTS IS
DEFINITELY PREMATURE.

3. ROTH IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE
WEST FORSAKING THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. HE BELIEVES
THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET SYMBOLIC REDUCTION CONCEPT
COULD CAUSE A CRITICAL SITUATION AMONG THE WESTERN
PARTICIPANTS. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF ABOUT THE POSSIBIL-
ITY OF BUNDESWEHR REDUCTIONS IN THE FIRST PHASE, ROTH
EXHIBITED MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN OTHER FRG OFFICIALS
QUERIED RECENTLY IN BONN (SEE BONN 11491). HE SAID THAT
PERHAPS SUCH REDUCTIONS COULD BE ACCEPTED IF ALL WESTERN
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, HE SAID
SUCH REDUCTIONS MIGHT LEAD TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION, AND
THE FRG WOULD RESIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW WESTERN
POSITION ALONG THESE LINES.

4. ROTH ALSO MENTIONED THE CONCEPT OF A SMALLER US-USSR
FIRST PHASE WITHDRAWAL THAN THAT PRESENTLY PROPOSED. HE
SAID HE COULD SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN SUCH SMALLER FIRST
PHASE WITHDRAWALS BUT, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF A TOPIC
OF THIS NATURE, STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE SUBJECT
SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID IF
FACED WITH THE THEORETICAL CHOICE OF EITHER SMALLER
US-SOVIET PHASE I WITHDRAWALS OR SYMBOLIC EUROPEAN
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REDUCTIONS IN THE FIRST PHASE, HE WOULD OPT FOR THE
FORMER.

5. ROTH REFERRED TO THE RECENT US-SOVIET SUMMIT AND THE
SECRETARY'S REMARK ABOUT THE NEED TO GET A HANDLE ON
THE MIRV PROBLEM WITHIN 18 MONTHS. HE ASKED
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE USG FAILED TO ACHIEVE SUCH AN
AGREEMENT AND WHAT THE EFFECT MIGHT BE ON THE USG MBFR

POSITION. ROTH WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT TIMETABLES IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY HOW PROSPECTIVE SALT II AND MBFR AGREEMENTS RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER. HE WILL PROBABLY RAISE THESE QUESTIONS WHEN HE TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR AND OTHER MATTERS AT THE END OF AUGUST.
CASH

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